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Gainsville Surgeon Volunteers His Medical Expertise Overseas

Robert J. Feezor, MD, provides urgent care for U.S. military members injured in Afghanistan

CHICAGO — Robert J. Feezor, MD, assistant professor of surgery in the division of vascular surgery and endovascular therapy in the University of Florida (UF) College of Medicine in Gainesville, Florida, has recently returned from a two-week rotation Landstuhl Regional Medical Center located near Kaiserslautern, Germany. While there, he helped care for U.S. military members who needed urgent care after being critically injured in Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom).

“This was my first experience volunteering at LRMC,” said Dr. Feezor. “I have no military background, but I was drawn to this opportunity by the desire to say ‘thank you’ in some way to the women and men who give me the right to exercise all the liberties I have at home.”

Dr. Feezor explained that the LRMC is a stopping point where soldiers can be stabilized before returning to military hospitals in the United States. It is the largest American hospital outside the United States and an American College of Surgeons Level 1 Trauma Center. Since 2001, the medical staff at LRMC has treated more than 64,000 patients from Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

“Surgeons at LRMC were more than capable of handling everything surgical, so I mostly provided moral support and back-up for them. I was honored to be there and was amazed at the respect I was given which, in my opinion, should have been reversed. Those men and women – the patients, the doctors, and all the staff at LRMC – were spectacular. I will definitely volunteer again in the future, and would urge all surgeons to do the same.”

Dr. Feezor has been on the UF faculty since 2008 and is board-certified in general surgery and vascular surgery. In addition to teaching, he also serves as the assistant program director of vascular surgery. His practice consists of open surgical and endovascular treatment of aortic pathology, peripheral and visceral occlusive disease, and dialysis access creation and maintenance.

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Dr. Feezor is a member of the Society for Vascular Surgery® (SVS). Since September 2007, more than 100 SVS members have volunteered to supplement the limited number of vascular surgeons at the LMRC.

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About the Society for Vascular Surgery

The Society for Vascular Surgery® (SVS) is a not-for-profit professional medical society, composed primarily of vascular surgeons, that seeks to advance excellence and innovation in vascular health through education, advocacy, research, and public awareness. SVS is the national advocate for 4,008 specialty-trained vascular surgeons and other medical professionals who are dedicated to the prevention and cure of vascular disease. Visit its Web site at www.VascularWeb.org® and follow SVS on Twitter by searching for VascularHealth or at <http://twitter.com/VascularHealth>.

